

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

December 12, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Massachusetts Bay Community College
50 Oakland Street
Library Atrium
Wellesley, MA

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 in the Library Atrium of Massachusetts Bay Community College (MBCC) at 50 Oakland Street, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

The following Board Members were present:

Chair Chris Gabrieli
Danielle Dupuis, Student Member, Bridgewater State University
Nancy Hoffman
Tom Hopcroft
J.D. La Rock
Paul Mattera
Paul Toner
Secretary Jim Peyser, Ex-Officio
Henry Thomas

Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner and Secretary to the Board

The follow Board members were absent:

Sheila Harrity, Vice Chair
Fernando Reimers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Gabrieli called the meeting of the Board of Higher Education (BHE) to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

List of Documents Submitted DHE "Cash Cow"- Back of the envelop calculations

Chair Gabrieli stated that he received two requests for public participation at today's meeting and stated that each request would be allowed a brief time allotment for their remarks, starting in alphabetical order. He then introduced Ms. Diana Kalinowsky.

- 1) Ms. Kalinowsky thanked the BHE for the opportunity to speak today regarding the financial challenges of adjunct faculty. She stated that she has relied on public assistance and has frequently made less than \$30,000 annually as a community college adjunct faculty member. She continued by highlighting the economic hardship she has faced, including that she been denied unemployment when her courses are cancelled, has less than \$100,000 in her retirement savings account, and has been forced to work a part time job at Home Depot to survive. She stated that she is teaching four courses this semester, and is working 6 days a week. She remarked that

she is not able to contribute to Social Security and questions why this is the case; she now qualifies for MassHealth but for several years, she went without health insurance. She stated that adjunct faculty members who do not qualify for Medicaid are facing 30% premium increases for health insurance. She stated that is asking for more support so adjuncts can earn a living wage through the following measures: (1) put a moratorium on hiring new adjuncts in place so existing adjuncts can work full time; (2) allow adjunct faculty members to contribute to Social Security; (3) give adjuncts preference when hiring full time faculty members; and (4) pro-rate pay and benefit for adjuncts in line with full time faculty. Ms. Kalinowsky concluded her remarks by stating that these are simple requests, and stated that her remarks today will explain the discontent among adjuncts state and nationwide. She asked the BHE to take the time to fight with her for fair contract negotiations.

Chair Gabrieli then recognized Ms. Diana Yohe, who was next on the list for public comments.

- 2) Ms. Yohe thanked the BHE for the opportunity to speak today and stated that Jeff Seideman from the Massachusetts Community College Council (MCCC) would be handing out an envelope. She introduced herself as President of the MCCC, which is currently vying for a new contract for the adjunct faculty who handle the bulk of teaching at our community colleges. Ms. Yohe remarked that adjunct faculty are “cash cows” for institutions-- they receive half pay for doing the same work as full time faculty. They teach the same courses, for the same credits, and the same tuition paid by students. She stated that MCCC is seeking parity, or equal pay for equal work, and their very modest pay increase of \$39 per course does not equate, even with the cost of inflation. Ms. Yohe then asked the BHE to do some “back of the envelope” math with her, demonstrating through calculations on the back of the previously distributed envelope the disparity per class between adjuncts and full-time faculty and reiterated her incredulity at a 1% pay increase. She concluded her remarks by stating our students deserve professors who are not driving back and forth from campus to campus to teach eight or nine courses a semester just to put food on the table.

Chair Gabrieli thanked both Ms. Kalinowsky and Ms. Yohe for their remarks today.

III. WELCOME

Chair Gabrieli introduced David Podell, President of MBCC. He thanked President Podell for hosting the meeting at MBCC and invited him to make remarks. President Podell thanked the Chair, the Commissioner, and Board and began his remarks by providing an introduction to MassBay, a college of about 5,000 students, half full-time, half part-time. He stated that they have three campuses: Wellesley, Framingham and an automotive program in Ashland. He continued that the college employs about 73 full time faculty members and they rely heavily on adjunct faculty. He remarked that they are in an interesting moment in their history; they are about halfway through their strategic planning process and are up against some challenges. He remarked that they are losing their Framingham campus because their lease is ending. Additionally, they are facing a challenge with their remedial math program, about half of their students require it and their record of students passing their first credit bearing math is not high. He remarked that they have a high percentage of veteran students and MBCC prides themselves on the services they provide to veterans. Additionally, they have 25 Goldwater Scholars, and have well recognized health science programs; their newest academic program is an AS in Cyber Security. He remarked that 15% of teaching is currently online or a hybrid model, and this figure grows every year. He then said he would like to take a moment to brag about the success of their basketball team, which won the 2017 NJCSS Region XXI Championship title and came in 5th in the country overall. He concluded his remarks by

expressing his appreciation for the close partnership MassBay has with Framingham State University, and acknowledged Framingham State President Javier Cevallos who was in attendance, remarking that they work well together. President Podell then introduced MassBay student Charles Santamaria to make some remarks.

Mr. Santamaria, thanked President Podell, and introduced himself as president of the MassBay Student Government Association, as well as a veteran of the United States military. He remarked that MBCC is very proactive with communication with students in academic, diversity and student affairs matters. He continued that the veteran community on campus is large, and vets work hard and require support, and MBCC does a tremendous job facilitating veterans' transitions to civilian life. Mr. Santamaria concluded his remarks by stating that he is very proud to be part of this institution.

Pres Podell thanked the BHE again, and welcomed to everyone MassBay.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairman Gabrieli brought forth a motion to accept the minutes of the October 31, 2017 BHE meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

V. REMARKS AND REPORTS

A CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chair Gabrieli remarked that in "an expression of holiday spirit," he would make no remarks today.

B. COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Chair Gabrieli invited Commissioner Carlos Santiago to make remarks. The Commissioner thanked President Podell and MBCC for hosting the BHE today, and thanked the student speaker, Charles Santamaria. He acknowledged the other Presidents in attendance today, President Ellen Kennedy of Berkshire Community College President James Mabry of Middlesex Community College, President James Vander Hooven of Mount Wachusett Community College, President Luis Pedraja of Quinsigamond Community College, President Fred Clark of Bridgewater State University, President Javier Cevallos of Framingham State, President Francis McDonald of Mass Maritime Academy, President John Keenan of Salem State University, President Ramon Torrecilha of Westfield State University, and President Barry Maloney of Worcester State University. He additionally acknowledged the attendance of Bill Hart, Executive Officer for the Community Colleges and Vince Pedone, Executive Officer of the State Universities.

The Commissioner began his remarks by speaking of the relationship between two Massachusetts campuses, MBCC and Framingham State University (FSU), and their formation of a *Regional Human Capital Hub*. He then cited examples of the elements that comprise this Regional Human Capital Hub, including their partnership to create the College Planning Center, where prospective students and their families are provided useful information as college-going decisions are being made. He continued that the Center reports to both institutions, and works with middle and high school students, primarily low income and underrepresented, who might not be thinking of attending college to help them plan to attend of one of the two institutions. Next, he discussed the recent launch of the FSU@MassBay program, in which students can earn an associate's degree from MassBay in Liberal Arts or Business Administration, and then continue towards a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies or Management from Framingham State, all at MassBay's Wellesley campus with bachelor's

level courses taught by FSU professors. Third, he mentioned that beginning this Fall 2017 semester, FSU offered MBCC student the opportunity to live in FSU's residence halls; about 25 students signed up in the first year, most of whom are international students or from outside the Metrowest area enrolled in the Automotive program. He remarked that so far, the program has been a success. Fourth, he referenced the recently established seamless RN to BSN Program in which nursing students receive a MassBay acceptance letter with an FSU acceptance at the same time. He remarked that clearly, Massachusetts is moving in the direction of dual admissions and the BHE's approved new policy for reverse transfer is filling in the gaps. Finally, he noted that FSU and MBCC are the recipients of a highly rated Early College Designation, linking their institutions to local high schools. He continued that the elements of a Regional Human Capital Hub are the academic institutions, K-12 and the employer community; he highlighted this arrangement not only because on the meeting's location in Wellesley, but because many institutions statewide are doing the same and stressed that in order to serve our communities well, we must take advantage of what brings us together in a complementary and cohesive way.

Commissioner Santiago continued by stating that he recently attended two convenings of faculty and staff; one in Westborough comprised of math faculty working on multiple math pathways and the second in Southbridge with STEM Starter Academy faculty and staff. He remarked that in Westborough, the faculty and staff who gathered have been revamping our entire system of remediation, which although is not seen as "glamorous" work, it is a matter of critical importance to students and our larger society and without these efforts, our loftier goals of access, affordability and completion will never be realized. He remarked that earlier this week, the Associated Industries of Massachusetts lowered its Business Confidence Index because of "a pervasive shortage of skilled workers across multiple industries." He remarked that Massachusetts has adopted a comprehensive approach to this work that includes: 1) using multiple measures to accurately determine whether a student is ready for college-level coursework; 2) ensuring that students take the appropriate math for their major; 3) ensuring that the majority of students who require remediation can get the support they need through the co-requisite model. He then recognized Fitchburg State University, who has pioneered this work and was recently awarded a DHE Performance Incentive Grant to design four math pathway courses for first year students, all with co-requisite support. He remarked that this will dramatically impact the experience of 670 freshmen who would otherwise require developmental math. He then stated that at the STEM Starter Academy Directors meeting just yesterday, their work in identifying support structures that most impact student success will serve us well in enabling success of our early college programs.

He concluded his remarks by stating that if we view the "non-glamorous" work of developmental math, co-requisite at scale, multiple math pathways, STEM Starter Academies, early college design, 100 Males to College in isolation we would be missing the most essential elements of this reform agenda. Taken together, they are powerful levers for enhancing success, affordability and completion. He remarked that it is necessary to pick up the pace of this reform, and stated that we will, as we are now done with pilots and our comprehensive approach is now evidence based. He stated that assessment and evaluation will continue and the DHE will bring significant reforms and revisions to the BHE for action a year from now.

Chair Gabrieli thanked the Commissioner and then turned the meeting over to Secretary Peyser.

C. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION'S REMARKS

Secretary Peyser made brief remarks. He stated that he was thrilled to be here today, and remarked that he was actually at MBCC all day yesterday for the Workforce Skills Cabinet,

which held several meetings with regional planning teams around the state. He stated that this process has been underway for a year. The goal was for workforce development, economic development, and education systems are aligned regionally in a coordinated way, working to develop blueprints to see what is necessary for the economic and workforce success of their region. He continued that this is relevant to higher education, because one of the key aspects is human capital that will develop the success of these regions. He concluded his remarks by stating that higher education was well represented in these conversations and he is grateful for their participation.

D. REPORTS FROM PRESIDENTS

Community College Presidents' Report – Berkshire Community College President Ellen Kennedy

List of Documents Submitted by President Kennedy

2017-2018 Massachusetts Community Colleges Booklet

President Kennedy brought greetings from the community college sector. She offered a “shout out” to BHE community college segmental representative J.D. La Rock and student member Ashley McHugh, and thanked President Podell for the warm welcome. She additionally thanked Ms. Diana Yohe and her leadership team for sharing their remarks. She shared some recent information about the 15 community colleges, noting that last year 176,000 individuals enrolled in courses and they awarded 11,000 degrees. She remarked that the community colleges are critical to the Massachusetts economy, enrolling 5,000 nursing students, and 12,000 STEM students with an average cost of attendance around \$6,000. She noted that last year, 45% of community college students were Pell Grant recipients. She then provided some individual campus highlights, including a UMASS Dartmouth/Bristol Community College diversity in nursing initiative, a proactive academic advising model at Holyoke Community College that has improved retention and completion rates, and the MBCC/FSU health care pathways initiative partnership.

President Kennedy then shared a Massachusetts Community College booklet with the BHE and encouraged them to follow the community colleges on social media. She concluded her remarks by stating that there is a sense of national anxiety that is permeating our campuses, and she believes we have an obligation to serve as community leaders.

State University Presidents' Report – Bridgewater State University President Fred Clark

List of Documents Submitted by President Clark

None

President Clark thanked the BHE and brought greetings from the State University segment. He began his remarks with a discussion of the FY19 budget, stating that the Council of Presidents (COP) wants to be recorded as in support of the budget request. He remarked that he wishes to thank the Commissioner for this request and for the support of the State University Internship incentive program, which is a wonderful example of public/private partnership. He remarked the Council of Presidents is also in support the modest increases recommended in Financial Aid, and cited the declining purchasing power of the MASSGrant. They additionally support the request for PIF, the Foster Care accounts, and the allotment for SARA.

President Clark said the State University Council of Presidents (SU COP) wanted to express concern in three specific areas of the Commissioner's budget recommendations. The SU COP believe that the Board should consider adding additional resources to an already

underfunded department. Further reduction in the DHE operating budget would put even more stress on staff that are being asked to do even more with less. The state university presidents would support the Board if it amended the Commissioner's recommendations to add additional funds for the operation of his office. The SU COP would also go on record as disagreeing with the DHE request to eliminate funding for the state university and community college funding formula line item and asked the Board to add funding for those two line items. President Clark requested that the Board amend the DHE budget to include a modest appropriation of one or two percent to the state university and community college funding formula line items.

Additionally, he mentioned the elimination of the nursing and allied health line item would negatively impact the institutions. For very little funding, the campuses nursing programs and our students benefit greatly.

President Clark added that he and his colleagues recognize the challenges facing the Governor and lawmakers in developing a balanced budget, but stated that funding certain initiatives is critical to helping our public colleges and universities deliver a high quality education to residents of the Commonwealth. President Clark additionally referenced capital management challenges, including old buildings and deferred maintenance costs. He remarked that Massachusetts ranks low in capital spending per student, and cited legislation currently in legislature that will ensure campuses have adequate funding for capital needs.

He then remarked on campus climate matters, stating that racist incidents are disgusting and have no place in society or on our campuses. He reported that campus leaders have initiated dialogue on campus climate, discrimination and hostility, and are committed to providing a safe environment for the entire campus community. He remarked that campuses have hosted forums and are looking to curricular enhancement to address these issues. He reported that the state universities are exploring the possibility of requiring all campuses to hire a diversity officer and conduct campus climate surveys, and they deeply appreciate the Commissioner's leadership on this issue.

He concluded his remarks by stating that he looks forward to working together with everyone to continue the successes they have enjoyed over the course of the year, and wished everyone happy holidays and a happy new year.

At the conclusion of President Clark's remarks, Board member Nancy Hoffman remarked that the last Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) meeting, the issue of campus unrest locally and nationally came up and that she does not feel the Board is informed enough on what is happening on the campuses to address these issues. She remarked that she wants to know what the Board can do to be supportive of campus efforts on these important matters.

E. REPORT FROM STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Student Board member Danielle Dupuis offered brief remarks. She thanked the BHE and MBCC, and acknowledged the remarks of MBCC student Charles Santamaria. She remarked that at their last meeting, the Student Advisory Council (SAC) had a great presentation on food and housing insecurity and discussed establishing connections and partnerships to address this issue. She continued that SAC recently reviewed some procedural matters, specifically that it is not always feasible to get all students in attendance at meetings due to geographic challenges. She remarked that students are now able to send a representative if their segmental representative cannot attend, and she believes this change will increase participation with SAC. She continued that they also discussed issues on access and

affordability, as well as inclusion and diversity and are looking towards policy resolution to ensure positive changes on campuses. Additionally, they are looking to increase student engagement and increase their social media presence. She remarked that looking forward, they will have a retreat at UMASS Lowell in January. She concluded her remarks by stating that the next BHE meeting is at Bridgewater State University, and she is looking forward to the opportunity to welcome everyone to her second home.

VI. MOTIONS

List of Documents Used:

AAC Motions 18-13 through 18-15

SPC Motion 18-04

FAAP Motion 18-11

BHE Motion 17-03

FY19 Budget Recommendation PowerPoint Presentation, December 12, 2017

A. Academic Affairs

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) Chair Nancy Hoffman to provide an update on the recent AAC meeting. Committee Chair Hoffman remarked that the AAC considered new academic programs at Springfield Technical Community College, UMASS Dartmouth, and Westfield State University. The AAC additionally entertained two other motions and continued a discussion on academic program review, taking consideration on all the feedback that has been received so far.

She then said she would take each motion in turn and called for a motion on AAC 18-13, a consent agenda on four program approvals. On a motion duly made and seconded, AAC 18-13 was unanimously approved by all Board members present, without discussion.

AAC 18-13 Consent Agenda – AAC 18-09 - AAC 18-12

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the following motions on a consent agenda:

AAC 18-09 Springfield Technical Community College
Associate in Science in Biomedical Engineering Technology

AAC 18-10 University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Bachelor of Arts in Health and Society

AAC 18-11 University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Public
Administration

AAC 18-12 Westfield State University
Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences

Authority: Article III, Section 6, By-Laws

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D.
Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Committee Chair Hoffman continued by providing an overview of AAC motion 18-14, which was to remove the conditional restriction on Northeast Maritime Institute's (NMI) authority to award the Associate in Applied Science in Nautical Science. She remarked that NMI is a tiny institution which has transformed from a vocational school to a college, and there was a discussion on their finances which was a key element of the removal of the conditional restriction. She remarked that the campus gave a satisfying presentation and she better understands their proposal.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

AAC 18-14 Northeast Maritime Institute

Associate in Applied Science in Nautical Science Without Condition

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby grants the request of **Northeast Maritime Institute, Inc.** to remove the conditional restriction on its authority to award the **Associate in Applied Science in Nautical Science** previously imposed by the BHE on NMI through AAC 156-09.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Patricia A. Marshall, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success

Committee Chair Hoffman continued by summarizing the final AAC motion 18-15, which is about the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) noting that after three years, we are ready for the next steps which include moving forward with a public comment period of the proposed regulations.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved as follows, with all Board members present voting in favor:

AAC 18-15 Authorization for Commissioner to Solicit Public Comment on 610 CMR 4.00: Operation of Massachusetts Degree-Granting Institutions Under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Commissioner to proceed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c. 30A § 3, to solicit public comment on the proposed regulation 610 CMR 4.00: Operation of Massachusetts Degree-Granting Institutions Under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, § 9, as amended by 2017 Mass. Acts ch. 47, §10;
M.G.L. c. 69, § 31A, as amended by 2017 Mass. Acts ch. 47, § 47, § 36;
M.G.L. c. 15A, § 41; M.G.L. c. 30A; 950 CMR 20.00

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel
Patricia A. Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success

B. Strategic Planning

Chair Gabrieli then turned the meeting over to J.D. La Rock, who provided an

overview of the discussions at the recent SPC meeting. Board member La Rock introduced the motion, which is the approval of Salem State University's Strategic Plan, and remarked that SPC Chair Fernando Reimers chaired the meeting, but unfortunately is unable to join in today's meeting because he is in Hong Kong. He remarked that he is looking forward to the January meeting with new institutions coming before the Board for their Touch Point II meetings. He continued that at the recent SPC meeting, the discussion focused on a few elements the committee particularly liked, such as the SWAT analysis, market analysis, and potential for enrollment growth, noting that the discussion with President Keenan and his staff was robust.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved with one abstention (Secretary Peyser).

SPC 18-04 Approval of Salem State University's Strategic Plan

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Salem State University Institutional Strategic Plan and authorizes the Commissioner to forward the same to the Secretary of Education for final approval pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 9(l), and 22(l).

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Sections 7, 9(f), 9(l) and 22(l); BHE By-Laws, Article I, Section 3(d) and Article III.

Contact: Winifred M. Hagan, Ed.D.
Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success

C. Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy

Chairman Gabrieli asked FAAP Chair Tom Hopcroft to provide an overview of the discussions at the recent FAAP meeting. Committee Chair Hopcroft remarked that the FAAP committee had a great discussion and opportunity to learn more about the budget. Commissioner Santiago added that he feels this budget is fiscally responsible, and we have tried to make it more strategic than in the past. He noted that any additional funding will flow to the campuses through financial aid or PIF, and he realizes the importance of PIF funds to promote innovations on our campuses. The Commissioner asked CFO Tom Simard to provide an overview of the FY19 Budget request.

Mr. Simard gave a PowerPoint presentation and began by providing an overview of the FY19 budget timeline, stating that we are still at the beginning of the process. He remarked that we were in a period of fiscal austerity at the end of FY17, but we are cautiously optimistic as we have enjoyed a consecutive three month period of growth. He noted that there is still uncertainty given other areas of budgetary exposure and national issues such tax reform.

He continued with a discussion of budgetary strategic investments: noting that the budget request aligns FY19 funding with sharpened focus to improve student success and the DHE's Big Three priorities. He additionally noted that there is anticipated gaming revenue for FY19, and the DHE is expecting approximately \$5.6 million to advance BHE priorities in FY19.

He continued by highlighting key investments of the request, which include financial aid as a priority. The request includes a significant increase in the state scholarship line item, as well as an increase in our foster care accounts and the Massachusetts High Demand Scholarship program.

Mr. Simard continued presenting key investments of the budget request, which include an increase in Performance Incentive Funds, noting that these programs have been transformational in developing campus innovations.

Mr. Simard continued his presentation with a discussion FY19 increases to meet mandatory obligations, including increases in the Foster Child Grant program and the Foster and Adopted Fee Tuition and Fee Waiver Program, as well as the College Health and Welfare fund.

He continued with a discussion of the DHE administrative account request, which is decreased from last year. He acknowledged President Clark's earlier comment and explained that decrease is due to the elimination of a grant that was previously included in this line item. He stated that there is also funding in this line item for the Campus Safety and Violence Prevention Initiative, as well as the initial costs of administering SARA participation (which will be self-supporting, eventually), as well as a cost of living increase for current DHE staff.

He continued by providing an update on Workforce Development programs, noting that the Nursing and Allied Health Initiative is being discontinued; the high-water mark for this program was \$600,000, and the discontinuation of this funding represents shifting obligation to industries and is consistent with our priorities. He noted that the other line items are level funded, and the NEBHE and Tufts Veterinary School requests are consistent with prior year recommendations. He concluded his presentation with a brief discussion of annual increases of current contracts, remarking that he felt it best to come back to the Board when we have more clarity on where these contracts will land.

After the presentation, the BHE engaged in a discussion about the FY19 Budget Recommendation. Board member Paul Mattera asked Deputy Commissioner Simard if he had any insight into the effect of the proposed Republican federal tax plan. Mr. Simard responded that we need to do more analysis, but it looks like the current version would only affect graduate students who are not the primary beneficiaries of tuition waivers and other state support. General Counsel Papanikolaou responded that if the bill passes we could take a closer look at how we classify tuition waivers versus scholarships, and that could be a potential work around.

Board member Toner asked a clarifying question on the discrepancy with the MCCC contracts. Michael Murry, Director of Employee and Labor Relations explained that the MCCC start and end date is one year off from the other contracts. Board members La Rock and Mattera both remarked that the unmet obligations for funding of these contracts create hardships for both the community college and state universities.

Board Member La Rock remarked that he appreciates the clear strategy of this budget. He noted that the BHE has had conversations about the alignment of

workforce and higher education, asked for some clarification that this budget recommendation level funds most workforce development initiatives. Commissioner Santiago responded that he does not think the budget reflects any movement away from workforce development investments, but he does think the campuses are leading the way on this, and are fully aligned with their regional workforces and moving a lot of these initiatives forward on their own. He cited Nursing and Allied Health as an example, and remarked that other agencies may be better equipped to handle these initiatives. He stated that from his perspective, the budget reflects strategic choices and not a retreat from workforce development. Board member La Rock followed this by asking if the PIF increase reflects investment, and the Commissioner responded affirmatively, and said the DHE can support those efforts. Board member Toner referenced the ongoing federal tax debates and asked if we should be concerned about the negative impact. The Commissioner responded yes, we should be and it is not reflected in the budget because there is so much uncertainty, but the higher education community generally agrees the proposed changes are not higher education friendly.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved with one abstention (Secretary Peyser).

FAAP 17-11 APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the attached Board of Higher Education operating budget request for Fiscal Year 2019 and further authorizes the Commissioner to submit the Board's budget recommendation to the Secretary of Education.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 6

Contact: Thomas J. Simard
Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance

D. Board of Higher Education

Chair Gabrieli asked Commissioner Santiago to introduce the next motion, BHE-18-03 which allows for the extension of resident tuition rates for the 2017-2018 academic year for students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands displaced by Hurricane Maria. Commissioner Santiago acknowledged the campus leadership on this matter, and remarked that there have been increases in the number of students coming to their doors. He remarked that 45% of Holyoke residents are of Puerto Rican decent and Worcester, Lawrence and Framingham additionally have significant Puerto Rican populations. He remarked on the devastating effects on Puerto Rican infrastructure and their economy, noting the death toll is close to 1,000. He continued that Massachusetts residents are bringing family members here to Massachusetts, and Massachusetts has provided food and support to the hurricane victims; this in-state tuition waiver is a continuation of other efforts to support hurricane victims, similar to the support we offered after Hurricane Katrina.

There being no discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved unanimously by all Board members present.

BHE 18-03 BHE TEMPORARY, EMERGENCY POLICY: IN-STATE RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION FOR STUDENTS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE MARIA (2017)

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education authorizes the extension of resident tuition rates for the 2017-2018 academic year to students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have been displaced by Hurricane Maria and who enroll in a Massachusetts public higher education institution. Provided further, that the Commissioner may extend the in-state tuition rate to such students into the Fall 2018 semester, as circumstances warrant. The BHE delegates to the Commissioner the authority to implement the appropriate policies and procedures to effectuate this intent.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, 9(t) and 5.

Contact: Constantia T. Papanikolaou, General Counsel

VII. PRESENTATIONS

List of Documents Used:

Tableau Presentation-Adult Learners in Massachusetts Public Higher Education: Realities and Opportunities

Chair Gabrieli turned the meeting over to Commissioner Santiago for the final agenda item, a presentation on adult learners in Massachusetts. Commissioner Santiago introduced Jonathan Keller, Senior Associate Commissioner for Research and Planning. The Commissioner remarked that this presentation is a continuation of the last meeting's presentation on enrollment figures.

Senior Associate Commissioner Keller began his presentation with some background information, stating that he recently attended a Complete College American conference, and a third of the presentations were about attracting adult students. He remarked that given the decline in the number of high school graduates, adult learners present an opportunity to increase the pool of new college students, as well as improve outcomes for traditionally underserved populations. He then presented data on the degree seeking student profile by age group, and the composition of enrollment by age, noting that there have been significant decreases in enrollment for adult learners in recent years. He then presented data on age distributions, noting that older students are more likely to be enrolled at a community college than any other sector.

Paul Toner stepped out at 11:41 a.m.

Senior Associate Commissioner Keller continued by presenting data on the types of degrees earned by adult learners; adult students gravitate towards associate degrees, and are much more likely to be part time. He remarked that they are also much more likely to define themselves as employees, rather than students and are juggling work and other responsibilities that necessitate them to enroll part-time. He reported that older students also tend to be female, which could be explained by inequities in the workforce that require more education, or also that they are more likely to take time off due to family obligations. He

continued that adult learners tend to be more diverse.

He continued by presenting data on majors for adult learners, with health care being the most popular, though there was also growth at UMASS for engineering.

Paul Toner returned to the meeting at 11:47

Senior Associate Commissioner continued by presenting data on opportunities to attract adult learners, noting that Massachusetts has only 6.5% of our adult population without a bachelor's degree currently enrolled in a post-secondary program.

Board member Toner asked how much of this is a function of low unemployment in our state; Dr. Keller responded that it is a factor, but even through Massachusetts has a very highly educated population, the demand in our economy for college educated workers is significant so there is a high demand.

He then presented some data on factors affecting adult learner interest, which includes cost, flexible schedules and program format. He noted that most adult students who are interested in going to college have already completed college credits, and cite fiscal and employment reasons, and intellectual curiosity as top reasons for their interest.

He then demonstrated the Credit for Prior Learning tool, launched in September 2017 where student can go online and get connected to an expert who can help them figure out where they stand academically and what to expect. Next, he demonstrated the Student Pathways Application which will be launched in January and connects students with academic programs and job information. Finally, he demonstrated a research and reporting tool the DHE is working on with EOE that has employment outcome and labor market information. Board member Hoffman asked how is this tool works with student identifiers. Dr. Keller responded that it is merging data with unemployment data and then the data is deidentified, to protect the privacy of students.. Board member Henry Thomas asked if there potential to use this with high school students. Dr. Keller responded that we are working on developing a similar tool with K-12. Dr. Keller then demonstrated the interactive potential return on investment tool that shows the potential benefit to the Commonwealth and concluded with the following takeaways:

- 1) The adult learner population is a very substantial source for increasing enrollment and significant potential for return on investment;
- 2) Their programmatic interests are concentrated in health care, business and other fields important to the Massachusetts economy;
- 3) Currently, enrollment is most significant at community colleges, though not insignificant at UMASS and State Universities;
- 4) Adult learners are primarily part-time students;
- 5) affordable, flexible programs are in demand for this population; and
- 6) This focus area is well aligned with the DHE's Big Three priorities.

Secretary Peyser thanked Senior Associate Commissioner Keller for his presentation, and noted that the Tableau format was an interesting and engaging tool. He remarked that framing adult learner enrollment opportunities in terms of degree completion and credentialing will be a better lens rather than just increasing enrollment; we want them to build skills and improve opportunities that are reflective of skills they have acquired. He continued that the concept of being able to incrementally improve their skills will be a benefit to them, even if they do not earn a degree.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gabrieli adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carlos E. Santiago
Commissioner of the Department and
Secretary to the Board